



Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Emergency Response - Chemical Emergencies

In an emergency...

If you believe that you have been exposed to chemical agent, or if you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.

If you believe a chemical threat is occurring, please contact your local law enforcement authorities or the Office of Emergency Services at (800) 852-7550.

OEHHA's Role in Chemical Emergencies

Local responders handle most emergencies without State intervention. On occasion, assistance is needed in determining the health effects and risks posed by accidental or intentional releases of chemicals and other toxic agents.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) aids in emergency situations by providing emergency personnel with information on the health effects of chemical agents, and by characterizing the risk to the public and to the environment from chemical releases. During emergencies OEHHA works directly with CalEPA and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Other OEHHA emergency functions:

- Support local health agencies following a chemical release by providing toxicology information.
- Provide information about exposure levels and assistance with decisions about sheltering-in-place, evacuation, and re-entry.
- Identify different exposure scenarios and potential health effects.

For questions regarding OEHHA's Emergency Response Program please contact Shelley DuTeaux at sduteaux@oehha.ca.gov. For general questions, please call the All OEHHA line at (510) 622-3200.

OEHHA is one of six agencies under the umbrella of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA).